

Savannah, GA

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Dec. 16, 1811
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The Ohio Centinel
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THE EARTHQUAKE.

Savannah, Dec. 23

The repeated shocks of Earthquakes, which have been felt in this place, since the morning of the 16th, having drawn forth some speculations and hypotheses from the scientific, I shall take the liberty of giving as perfect account of the phenomena as they occurred, as my own observations, assisted by that of others, will enable me to do.

About 3 o'clock of the morning of the 16th, a shock was felt which produced an oscillating movement of the houses, and lasted for nearly a minute. It was not preceded by any noises which usually portend this phenomenon, nor was its approach announced by any other appearance, than a great serenity in the atmosphere. An hour afterwards another shock was felt, but of shorter continuance than the other, and a person then up, has said, that he observed at the same time a tremulous undulating motion of the earth like the rolling of waves. At 8 o'clock a noise resembling distant thunder was heard, and was soon after followed by a shock which appeared to operate vertically, that is to say, by a heaving of the ground upwards- but was not sufficiently severe to injure even furniture or glasses. This shock was succeeded by a thick haze, and many people were affected by giddiness and nausea. Another shock was experienced about 9 o'clock at night, but so light as not to be generally felt- and at half past 12 the next day (the 17th) another shock was felt, which lasted only a few seconds, and was succeeded by a tremour which was occasionally observed throughout the day affecting many with giddiness. At half past 6 o'clock a very thick haze came on, and for a few minutes a sulphurous smell was emitted. At 9 o'clock last night, another was felt, but so slight as to have escaped the observation of many who had not thought of attending particularly to the operations of this phenomenon. At one o'clock this morning (23d) another shock took place of nearly equal severity with the first of the 16th. Buried in sleep, I was not sensible of this, but I have derived such correct information on the fact, that I have no reason to doubt it; but I have observed since 11 o'clock this morning frequent tremors of the earth, such as usually precede severe shocks in other parts of the world.